MARKED COPY

SPRING 1991

1-90
SAR-20

Cover in Art Dept

home safety Review

COULD YOU SAVE A POISONED CHILD?

Also:

BEWARE OF CHEAP GLASS DOORS

WHAT DRINKING DRIVERS DON'T KNOW

LIFESAVING TIPS FROM FIREFIGHTERS

Readers Ask

Readers' questions answered by PHILIP DYKSTRA
Manager, Home Safety Department

What's wrong with putting a penny in the fuse box?

Plenty. A fuse is a safety valve that "blows" to warn you if your electrical circuit becomes dangerously overloaded. When you insert a penny behind the fuse, the electricity travels through the penny, bypassing the fuse. Without the fuse to cut off the flow of electricity the wires can become overheated and kindle fires in hidden areas behind walls. Also, you should never substitute large capacity fuses, such as 20 ampere, for the regular 15 ampere size; or again you risk overloading circuits.

If fuses blow frequently, circuits are overloaded and you should employ an electrician to solve the problem—before your house goes up in smoke.

You emphasize that all electrical products should bear the UL seal. What does this mean?

UL stands for Underwriters' Laboratories, a non-profit organization that puts its seal on products that perform according to certain standards. When you buy a product bearing the UL label, you can be sure it has been tested for shock and fire hazard. However, one warning: Be sure the UL label applies to the whole electrical apparatus and not to just a small part, such as the cord. You can tell by placement of the tag and printed matter on the package.

• • •

Recently I read about three children who were blown to bits while playing with a hand grenade in a man's basement. Why aren't these things illegal?

They are. A loaded grenade or any other "live" war souvenir such as a bazooka shell, cannot lawfully be kept in a home. Inert weapons are allowed.

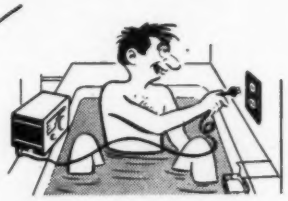
Unfortunately, some children have been hurt or killed when they discovered grenades in deserted buildings. Anyone who knows of the existence of explosive war souvenirs should call the police department or ordnance detachment at the nearest military base. They will pick up the weapon and destroy it without charge.

• • •

Is the bite of a non-poisonous snake dangerous?

Infection is possible if the snake's teeth break the skin. Therefore, the bite should be washed with soap and water and bandaged like any other small wound. There is no danger of contracting rabies because a snake is not warm-blooded, and hence can't carry the disease.

The arrangement of teeth marks will tell you whether the snake that struck was poisonous. Non-poisonous snakes leave two U-shaped scratches or fine tooth marks. A poisonous snake usually inflicts two puncture marks, but sometimes only one or as many as four, depending upon the angle from which it struck. Behind the punctures is a row of scratches caused by the snake's smaller teeth.



I know that using a plugged-in radio near a bathtub is a shock-hazard, but is the same true of a portable transistor radio?

No. There is no danger of getting a shock from a small transistor radio, even if it fell in the tub with you. The battery is only one and a half volts, which is extremely weak compared with the 110 volt house current of an ordinary radio.

• • •

Do you need a lightning rod if you have a tall TV antenna that protects your house?

Contrary to what many persons believe, a TV antenna will not act as a lightning rod. In fact, an antenna that is not grounded sometimes attracts lightning and carries it into a house. So be sure your antenna includes a ground wire and lightning arrestor to divert the electric charge. Total home protection against lightning calls for a system of light metal rods and conductors, installed by a reputable firm. City dwellings are not so vulnerable to lightning, but suburban homes are good targets because they lack the protection of tall buildings.

home safety Review

SPRING 1961

Published by the NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

Editor
Jean Carper

Associate Editor
Peter Hanen

Advisory Board
Philip Dykstra
Manager, Home Safety Department
Doris E. Mersdorf
Home Safety Consultant
Gordon O'Neill
Home Safety Engineer
Hugh McCahey
Home Safety Consultant

Home Safety Conference

NSC Vice President for Homes:
George M. Wheatley, M.D.

Conference Chairman:
Howard Ennes

Vice Chairman:
Eugene Lehr

Staff Secretary:
Philip Dykstra

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL
Chartered by the Congress of the United States
Home Office: 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

San Francisco Office: 703 Market St.,
San Francisco 3, Calif.

New York Offices:
Field Service & General Information, 60 E. 42nd St.,
New York 17, N. Y.

Public Service Fund, 639-40 Chrysler Bldg.,
New York 17, N. Y.

The **Home Safety Review** is published quarterly by the National Safety Council, 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Ill. Copyright 1961 by the National Safety Council. Printed in U.S.A. Subscriptions (4 issues) each: 1—$2.00; 2—$1.40; 10—$1.10; 50—$.85; 500—$.70; 1000—$.67; 5,000—$.64. Add $.30 per subscription for foreign other than Canada and Pan American Union. Permission to reprint contents with customary credit line is freely given unless otherwise stated. Photos and cartoons excepted. Statements and opinions advanced in signed articles are personal expressions of the authors, not necessarily those of the National Safety Council.

Vol. 20 No. 1

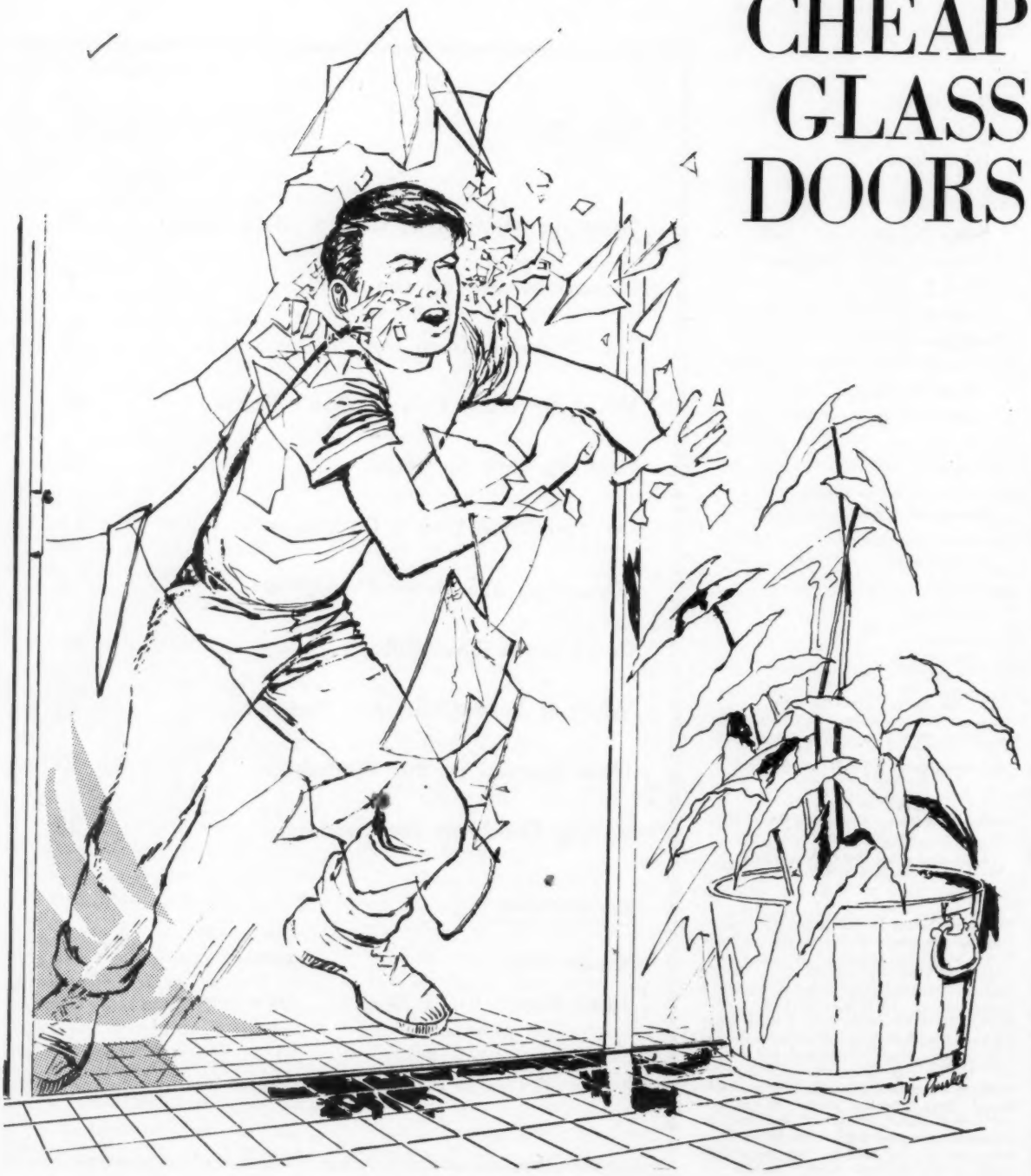
Growing Menace of Cheap Glass Doors 4
Tornadoes Are on the Way 7
Ten Cartoons from the Post 8
What Drinking Drivers Don't Know 10
How To Call for Help 13
Do You Drive Like a Champion? 15
Lifesaving Tips from Firefighters 16
Don't Invite Snakebite 21
What If Your Child Ate Poison? 24
New Hazard in the Workshop 27
Spring Check-up for Ladders 28

DEPARTMENTS

Readers Ask 2
Safety Clips 20
Letters 30
New Products 32

Cover photo, Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine

growing menace of CHEAP GLASS DOORS



PANORAMIC glass doors that characterize architecture's modern "Bright Outlook" are now presenting a gloomy picture.

Several years ago large doors that open onto a patio or yard were of heavy shatterproof glass and installed only in homes with a price tag of $50,000 or more. But today the doors are so popular that few new homes are without one and a remodeler can pick one up for as little as $59.50. Unfortunately, the quality of glass has decreased more than the price. The cheaper glass is so thin and flimsy that it shatters from the slightest blow, as some unsuspecting homeowners have found out.

Roscoe Laing of Seattle is one. During a barbecue at his home last July, the guests as usual walked between the patio and kitchen—that is, until his wife closed the sliding glass door that separates the two. Eight-year-old Gary Hauptli, unaware of the door's presence, walked against it. It shattered into dozens of pieces, leaving Gary blood-spattered from his forehead to his ankle. A surgeon working two hours sewed up the gaps in Gary, but the scars will remain, one three inches across his forehead. At that, the doctor called Gary lucky, because the daggers of glass barely missed his eye and an artery in his wrist.

Laing, who happens to be general manager of the magazine *Pacific Architect* and *Builder*, was outraged: "I took it for granted the door contained shatterproof safety glass. But I found out the glass was only $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch thick, about twice the thickness of an ordinary window pane.

"Furthermore, everyone tried to sell me the same dangerous glass as a replacement. Finally I obtained wired glass that's not so attractive, but at least won't shatter so much and injure someone else the way it did Gary."

After a few inquiries, Laing discovered the accident in his home was not unusual. Seattle harbors many victims of shattering glass doors, including: A 9-year-old boy who bled to death from jagged glass that severed an artery. A man whose forehead was so deeply gashed by a piece of glass that he is still undergoing plastic surgery. A 6-year-old boy who will go through life with a slight limp caused by glass that cut muscles, tendons and nerves in his left leg.

In the hospital with 64 stitches in his body is Gary Hauptli who ran into a glass door.

One Seattle doctor reported he had observed a "rash" of such accidents; another that he treated them "all the time." A plastic surgeon said that in the last two years he had tried to fix up the faces of at least seven persons who had tumbled through sliding glass doors.

A national problem

These accidents are not restricted to Seattle, although no one knows how many happen in the country each year. (Laing has estimated 40,000, a figure glass door companies call absurd.) Cases have been reported from various areas: California, Kansas, Ohio, Oregon, Mississippi and Florida. The doors became such a problem in Riverside County, Calif., that officials revised the building code to require glass in sliding doors to be a quarter inch thick or bear visual identification such as decals. Dade County, Florida, also took action; it requires at least 7/32 of an inch glass thickness, which is evidently not the solution. A doctor in the county reports he is patching up several glass-door victims a month.

Nor is the hazard restricted to children. In fact, said Dr. Marvin Weil of Miami Beach, "I can think of more adults than children who have gone through the doors."

Usually, victims deceived by the transparency of the glass don't real-

ize it is there and try to walk through. Others, especially children, don't stop to look. Some, although aware of the glass, accidentally bump against it. In any case the glass breaks, showering the victim with sharp jagged pieces.

The Sliding Glass Door Institute, trade association of manufacturers, became so concerned that it established a committee to study the hazard. Afraid that accidents will damage the glass door business, the committee has called for stiffer standards.

"We admit we're worried," said the Institute's secretary, Donald Hassis. "For example, some doors I've seen (not made by our members, thank heavens) are of double strength window glass that is like a razor in the hands of a child." Most members blame cheap, thin glass for the accidents and recommend that the standard thickness be upped to a quarter inch. Such glass would be several times stronger, says Hassis, and would add only a third to the cost. The average door price, now $150, would be raised to $200.

What about decals?

Other remedies suggested by members are visual warnings such as decals, sandblasted designs, bars and strips of tape. Although helpful, these designs are easily overlooked by children, according to safety leaders. One 11-year-old girl who saw a butterfly in the yard dashed through a door marked with the sign, "This door is closed." Bits of glass struck her body and one, bearing part of the sign, ironically stuck to her nose.

Next comes the obvious question, Why not use shatterproof safety glass in the doors? Two kinds—laminated and tempered—would be acceptable from the aesthetic standpoint.

Laminated, the type found in automobile windshields, is a sandwich of two sheets of glass with an intervening layer of tough plastic. The merit of laminated is not mere strength; according to tests by Dow Chemical Co., it withstands no more impact than regular quarter inch plate. But when laminated breaks, the pieces do not scatter. They adhere to the plastic.

Tempered glass, used in the side windows of most automobiles, has been heat-strengthened creating a great tension on the glass surface. Tests show tempered will withstand impacts three to five times as great as quarter inch plate or laminated. Nor does tempered shatter when broken. It disintegrates into tiny gravel particles, unlikely to produce cuts.

One disadvantage of tempered, however, is that although it resists forces from large blunt objects, it falls to pieces when hit by tiny particles such as a flying stone or BB shot.

Despite any small disadvantages, shatterproof glass would undoubtedly eliminate serious injuries to persons crashing through doors. However, the building industry opposes its use because of increased cost which they say would kill the sliding glass door business. Said one glass retailer, "When I quote a price of $80 to $100 for shatterproof glass in a door, no one goes for it."

Tempered glass, less expensive than laminated, is said to triple or quadruple the cost of a door. "Cost to a glass company of a 6-foot wide door of quarter inch plate is $32," said Seattle architect Philip Moore; "tempered is $85."

In contradiction, E. W. Buck, general manager of Trimview Metal Products, brands these high estimates "ridiculous." He says his firm is planning to make tempered glass available to homeowners at an extra cost of only $16.20 per 6-foot door. "This is not much more than the cost of going from $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch glass to quarter inch plate," he states. "At this reasonable price every homeowner can insist on tempered glass doors in his home."

Outlaw shattering glass

Some persons believe the use of safety glass should not be a homeowner's choice, but a requirement of law. Seattle building officials, alarmed over by the upsurge of accidents, are studying a code change which would require shatterproof glass in all sliding doors. Reportedly, the proposal has drawn little opposition and is expected to become law within a few months. Proponents of the code change think other cities, as they are alerted to the problem, will follow Seattle's lead.

All citizens should be assured by law that they will not be injured by building materials in their home, says Roscoe Laing. The small added cost of this protection will not prohibit persons from buying sliding glass doors or ruin the glass door industry, he believes. In fact, more persons than before will want the doors because they are safe.

Regardless, when human life is endangered, cost is irrelevant, he says. "A building material is either suitable or it is not."

Safety leaders are inclined to agree, especially those in California who recall the fate of 6-year-old Ronnie Retzlaff of Barstow. Last fall, during a game of ball in the yard with his father, he burst through a plate glass door. A splinter punctured his abdomen and he died in the hospital 40 minutes later.●

Do you know of an accident involving sliding glass doors? If so, the National Safety Council would like to hear about it. Address letters to HOME SAFETY REVIEW, *National Safety Council, 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.*

Hu 94

US Weather Bureau

TORNADOES are on the way

WITH THE first warm muggy days of spring, tornadoes will pop up like mushrooms, unexpected and full of fury. During March "twisters" will concentrate on the South, then move northeastward, hitting the central states hard in April and the northern ones in June.

If 1961 bears an average crop, weathermen will count 200 funnel clouds. And undertakers will bury an equal number of dead who will have been caught in the 200 m.p.h. whirlwinds.

Although most states have been struck by tornadoes, Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma have suffered the greatest number. So tornado-worn is a 300-mile-wide path from Fort Worth, Tex., to Milwaukee, Wis., that it is called "Tornado Valley."

The far West and northeastern seaboard are rarely plagued by tornadoes. The middle east states, such as Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania, are not hit frequently, but the destruction and death in these heavily populated areas are much greater than in the wide-open spaces of the South.

Meteorologists know that a tornado sweeps across the ground somewhat like a giant vacuum cleaner, creating a low pressure that causes buildings to explode. But they don't know why some clouds drop the destructive funnel and others don't. Researchers in weather control, however, are investigating tornadoes and have even tried to thwart the funnel's growth by means of cloud seeding (a technique of rainmakers) and huge oil fires, but with little success. New scientific advances, such as the Tiros weather satellites, bring new hope, though, and eminent meteorologists predict that within 50 years tornadoes will be a relic of the past.

In the meantime, the best weathermen can do is forecast the possibility of a tornado or spot the funnel and issue warnings – anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour and a half before the cloud touches ground.

According to the U. S. Weather Bureau, here's what to do if you see a funnel or hear tornado warnings:

- Best of all, get to a tornado cellar, cave or underground excavation with an air outlet. Only an underground excavation offers universal protection against tornadoes.
- Or seek shelter on the bottom floor of a reinforced concrete or steel framed building. *Stay away from windows.*
- If at home, go to the corner of your basement nearest the approaching tornado. If your house has no basement, you can find some protection by taking cover under heavy furniture against inside walls.
- If you're driving in open country move at right angles to the tornado's path. Since a tornado travels at 25 to 40 m.p.h., you can usually outdistance it easily.
- When there is no means of escape lie flat in the nearest depression such as a ditch or ravine. Don't stay in the automobile which may be picked up, dropped and crushed.●

"I'm worried about Shorty."

"That's right! Wake up the children!"

"Please, Clifford! Everybody's looking!"

Best of the Post

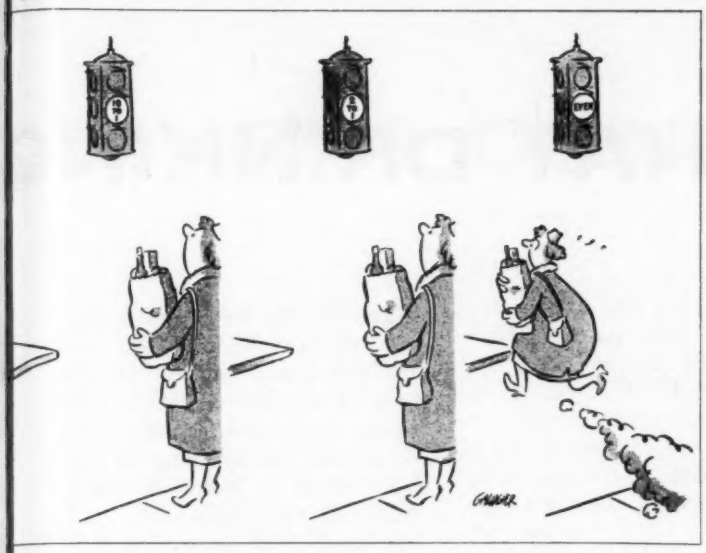
Ten top safety cartoons

from 1960 issues of the *Saturday Evening Post*

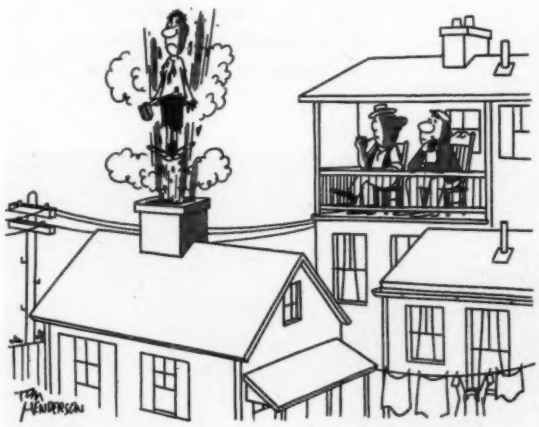
© 1960 The Curtis Publishing Company

"... and now let's give the old reverse a try."

"Can I disturb you for a minute?"



"Out of bounds."



"Wheeler does all his own furnace repairs."

"We got here despite overwhelming odds. Ethel drove."

"Here comes the cake!"

WHAT DRINKING OF

For those who drive after a few drinks

here are shocking facts that prove

you're more dangerous than the sodden drunk.

ON HIS way home from a cocktail party during a light rain and fog, a man plowed into the back of a string of cars at high speed. One person was killed, others injured. In explaining his alcoholic breath to police, the driver delivered the classic alibi "only two drinks." He even insisted he be given a blood chemical test to prove it. Results showed a .045 per cent concentration of alcohol in his blood, which under state law indicated he was not drunk. (Three

DRIVERS DON'T KNOW

times that much alcohol, or .15 per cent, is demanded in most states as proof of intoxication.) No court in the country could hold this man guilty of driving under the influence. But was he? How much did the alcohol blunt his judgment, blur his eyesight and slow down his reactions? Would he, despite foggy conditions, have seen the cars and stopped in time if he had been cold sober?

Contrary to popular belief, this man who "had been drinking" is a greater menace on the highway than the sodden drunk everyone recognizes and fears. According to nationwide traffic reports to the National Safety Council, the moderate drinker is involved in three times as many fatal accidents as the intoxicated driver. Together these drinking drivers are involved in at least a third of all traffic deaths—or more than 12,000 each year.

Some medical authorities, alarmed by the threat of the social drinker behind the wheel, have suggested lowering the permissible level of alcohol in a driver's blood to .05—or roughly equal to the influence of two highballs, two glasses of wine or two beers on an average 150 pound man. Such is the legal limit in Norway for a driver whether he has been involved in an accident or not. However, the agreement among American traffic officials is that even .03 per cent alcohol in the blood hinders driving abilities.

What makes a moderate drinker a hazard on the highway is that neither he nor other drivers suspect his impairment. He is usually a well-meaning "average guy," a respectable citizen, but grossly ignorant of the physiological effects of alcohol. He is misled by three dangerous misconceptions, according to Don Lhotka, the National Safety Council's consultant on traffic and alcohol. They are:

1. *I can drive as well or better after a few drinks.* "This is nonsense," said Lhotka. "A person only thinks he can, because even two drinks containing a jigger of whiskey or gin can put a 160 pound man in a carefree, careless mood. He is no longer critical of his driving; he loses judgment. This is because alcohol first numbs the cerebrum, the highest brain center, that controls inhibitions and critical judgment.

"After two highballs, a driver, devoid of self-criticism, may drive faster than usual, sneak through yellow caution lights or pass on a curve—in other words, take chances he would not ordinarily take."

Evidence that driving is impaired by a small amount of alcohol has been confirmed time and again by numerous experiments. A classic one is that of Dr. Leonard Goldberg, of Sweden's Caroline Institute. He tested the performances of 37 skilled drivers before and after they downed a quantity of alcohol found in two good highballs or three to four bottles of beer. The guinea pigs showed no obvious signs of being under the influence. The amount of alcohol in their blood measured an average of only .049 per cent, proof of sobriety in the U.S.

Yet, the ability of these drivers to maneuver an auto around a test course was definitely reduced. One fellow couldn't back his wheels onto a 7-inch wide plank after 15 tries. Dr. Goldberg noted that vision, especially the ability to distinguish objects, was cut drastically —"as much as wearing sunglasses at twilight or darkness."

As might be expected, the drivers in the post-alcohol test thought they were performing better; their self-confidence had soared, which aptly illustrates an item in the road code of New Zealand. "A little alcohol has the double effect of making a man drive worse and believe he is driving better."

Dr. Goldberg's conclusion: A small amount of alcohol causes driving performance to deteriorate 25 to 30 per cent.

2. *An after-work cocktail doesn't impair driving.* On the contrary, a cocktail on an empty stomach sometimes gives you twice the "kick" as two of the same after dinner, according to Leon D. Adams in his new book, *The Commonsense Book of Drinking.* Alcohol without food to retard its absorption gets into the blood much faster. From there it is carried rapidly to the brain.

A normal cocktail, containing one jigger or one and a half ounces of 90 proof liquor is enough to

push a 120 pound woman with an empty stomach over an alcohol-blood level of .03, the danger point for safe driving. Two cocktails on an empty stomach definitely impair the driving ability of even a 180 pound man.

It's not how much you drink, but the amount of alcohol in your blood *at one time* that determines the degree of impairment. "Obviously, the fellow who stops by a bar after work and belts down two quick ones of straight whiskey is in much worse shape to drive than the person who dilutes his liquor with water or mixer and sips them over a period of an hour or two," said Lhotka. "A tall-one with lots of mixer takes longer to drink and also longer to be absorbed into the blood. So does beer," he said. "But most of it gets there eventually."

3. *Alcohol doesn't affect me, because I've built up a tolerance for it.* Hard-bitten drinkers who boast they can consume half a dozen highballs without even getting a glow because their body is used to alcohol are under an illusion. It's physically impossible to build up an immunity to alcohol. A person's body can tolerate only so much alcohol whether it's in a first drink or fiftieth. The simple explanation is that a person's metabolism rate that determines how fast alcohol burns up can't be changed by habitual drinking. Psychologists do believe though that a person accustomed to drinking learns to control himself and not show the effects of his drinks so readily as the novice.

Your A.Q. is fixed

Everyone knows from observation that the same quantity of alcohol affects imbibers in varying degrees. One person after four Martinis may still be in control of all faculties but his tongue while his companion after the same dosage may be as uncoordinated as a rag doll. Why? Because everyone possesses an individual Alcohol Quotient. Research has shown that how much a person can drink depends to a great extent on body weight, how fast the small intestine absorbs alcohol, how fast blood distributes it and how fast the liver oxidizes it. In view of the physical basis for alcohol capacity, no one can do anything to raise his A.Q.

Recognizing the differences in susceptibility to alcohol's influence, officials who enforce drunken driving laws measure not how many drinks a person has consumed, but how much alcohol his blood contains—a sure guide to how much he is impaired. According to Dr. Leon A. Greenberg, of Yale University, who has intensively studied the effects of alcohol, an average man of 150 pounds who downs two jiggers of 90 proof whiskey on an empty stomach will bring his alcohol content in the blood up to .06 per cent, which indicates a careless attitude dangerous to a driver. One more drink of the same strength will induce the fellow to become noisy; one more, unsteady and the fifth legally drunk.

Under the same conditions, a 120 pound woman will become intoxicated on four drinks and a 180 pound man on six drinks.

Dr. Greenberg's calculations make allowances for the body's elimination of alcohol. According to his studies, the average liver oxidizes an ounce and a half of whiskey every two hours, which means it takes four hours to get rid of two highballs, each containing an ounce and a half of whiskey.

If this is true, isn't it all right to drive after you have waited two hours for every drink you have consumed? Theoretically, yes. The New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, in an effort to educate drivers, provides cards for bar patrons explaining how to compute the time necessary for blood-alcohol level to sink below .03 per cent, into the safe driving range.

Using the same logic, a heavy person might be able to consume one drink without impairing driving ability. "But who stops at one drink?" asks Lhotka. "And is it really *practical* to ask a man to sit around a bar for several hours until he sobers up? Will he do it? It's unlikely, especially since his judgment has already deteriorated. The best practical advice to keep dangerous drinking drivers off the highways is still 'If you drink, don't drive.'"●

AL 137

Taking "one for the road" is sportscar driver who volunteered to drink and drive for science. Tests like these prove two drinks impair driving.

Ho 751

by TOM DODDS

In an emergency how you use the phone may save your life

How to call for HELP

THE voice on the phone was hysterical. "Come quick! My house is on fire!"

With this a panicked woman slams down the receiver, prematurely breaking contact with those ready and able to help. This is not an isolated incident. Firemen say it happens many times every year.

Interestingly, the first message to go out over a telephone transmitter was a call for help after an accident.

Alexander Graham Bell—working in his rooming house laboratory—was trying out a new dilute sulphuric acid transmitter when he accidentally spilled some of the acid on his clothing. As he called for help to his assistant in another room—"Mr. Watson, come here, I want you"—the transmitter in his hands accidentally carried his words as its first intelligible speech.

Telephones, of course, have been improved tremendously through the intervening years, but, in many cases, calls for assistance in an emergency have been far less effective in getting the facts across than Bell's terse call for help.

Instinctively, when an emergency happens in the home, anyone able to do so heads for the phone as quickly as possible. It's the fastest and most reliable method of getting help. This is one thing those caught up in an emergency situation seem to remember—call the fire department, call the police, call a doctor. But, too frequently, panic sets in at this point.

Precious minutes can be wasted—minutes in which a life can ebb away or a fire spread to uncontrollable proportions—while those at the other end of the line try to calm down an incoherent caller so they can get the facts.

What can you do to prepare for an emergency telephone call?

It's time-consuming to search through the phone book for a number. Have numbers you might call in an emergency posted in an obvious place near the telephone.

Suppose it's night and the lights won't work or you've been blinded by smoke and it's impossible to read or see what you're doing. All you have to do is dial "operator." Feel for the dial opening just beneath the finger-stop. Pull the dial all the way around in the usual manner and let it return. That's all

you have to do. Operators are trained to handle such situations and they'll get help for you as quickly as possible.

Most frequently, people panic after the call goes through. A few are speechless, but they're exceptions. Most don't know what to say, and simply blurt out the first thing that comes to mind, no matter how confusing. It's then up to the fireman, nurse or whoever is taking the call to question the caller until the necessary information is obtained. If the caller doesn't hang up, that is.

Here are four points that you should cover clearly and quickly (and as calmly as possible) in an emergency call for help:

1. *Tell where it happened.* Give street number and name of street. Repeat it. If it's an emergency that isn't obvious (a fire would be easy to spot) a brief description of the house will be helpful—two-story frame, brick, cape cod, etc. This is especially important at night.

2. *Tell what has happened.* Is your house on fire? Is a grass fire spreading toward your house? Has your furnace exploded? Is someone bleeding badly? Has someone had a heart attack? Has someone been burned in a fire?

3. *Tell what kind of help is needed.* The person you talk to will probably know what is needed from the information given when you tell him what has happened. But it won't hurt if you explain what kind of equipment you think will be needed.

4. *Tell who you are.* This is important when the emergency is not obvious from the outside, especially if a multi-family dwelling is involved. Then, too, a neighbor, asked for directions, will be more likely to recognize your name than your house number.

A lot to remember? No, on the average, you can give the foregoing information in about ten seconds. And, remember, after you've finished don't hang up immediately. Pause and give the person you're talking to a chance to ask a question or ask you to clarify something you've said.

Just in case you should momentarily "blank out" during a call, jot down and post near your emergency numbers the following reminders—What's happened? Where did it happen? What's needed? Who are you?

Aid in an emergency is as close as the nearest telephone—if you're able to give essential information quickly.●

TEACH CHILDREN TO DIAL ZERO

To children, the telephone operator should be as well known and trusted as the corner policeman. Although a youngster can't be expected to memorize long telephone numbers, he can be taught one rule: If something happens, dial zero, tell the lady what is wrong and she will help you.

"My Mommie's asleep and won't wake up and there's a fire in our house," was one 5-year-old's plaintive message to the operator. After a little prodding, the operator learned the boy's name and address and called the fire department. There was no mistake. Firemen found the house on fire and the mother lying in bed, knocked out by sleeping pills. Both survived, thanks to the child's action.

He 751f

Another youngster whose mother fell through a floor and was trapped, went directly to the phone and dialed zero. He couldn't remember his daddy's name or where he lived, but he rattled off the name and address of his grandparents in short order. The operator called them, got the child's address and had a doctor on the way in minutes.

Although operators are as ingenious as Sherlock Holmes in tracing calls from small fry, such procedure is a waste of precious time. Encourage your child to memorize his name, his father's name and address.

If you don't have a private phone, but have access to a pay phone, don't forget you can't get the operator without a dime. Keep one just for emergencies, taped in a spot known to everyone in the family. Be sure children know how to insert the money and can reach the phone.

Dr 839 awa

Sharing honors with his wife is champion driver, patrolman Keilen.

Do you drive like a CHAMPION?

Take this test and find out

ALEX J. KEILEN, 52-year-old Minnesota highway patrolman who has driven 35 years without an accident or traffic violation was recently named the nation's outstanding safe driver. To win the title, Keilen drove 1,300 miles—from Fraser, Colo., to Furnace Creek, Calif.—accompanied by traffic specialists who jotted down every move he made. Instruments attached to the car's controls recorded his every touch of the accelerator and brake.

The object: to discover the secrets of a safe driver. Observers concluded that Keilen's remarkable driving was based on several factors, embodied in the questions at right. To see how you stack up against a champion driver, mark your answers, then see preferred ones.

1. ____**Are you courteous to other drivers and pedestrians?**
2. ____**Do you ever have to make a quick-stop?**
3. ____**Do you always signal your intentions by hand, lights or horn?**
4. ____**Do you ever drive over the speed limit?**
5. ____**Do you concentrate totally on your driving?**
6. ____**Do you always wait until you are sure it is safe to pass?**
7. ____**Do you scan the highway ahead for possible hazards?**
8. ____**Do you gear your driving to the other fellow?**
9. ____**Do you ever become so exasperated with other drivers that you lose self-control?**
10. ____**Do you always leave yourself an "out" in case an emergency situation develops?**

PREFERRED ANSWERS

1. Yes (Keilen always respects other's rights, but is not a milquetoast. For example, he would not hold up a whole line of traffic to let an approaching car turn left in front of him.)

2. No (Keilen during the 1,300 mile trip never made one quick stop or start.)

3. Yes (Keilen never hesitates to use his horn if necessary.)

4. No

5. Yes

6. Yes (Keilen's passing is always long and gradual, never abrupt.)

7. Yes

8. Yes (Keilen is a "defensive" driver who is always on the alert for the other driver's foibles.)

9. No (Keilen, of course, becomes impatient at times, but never so irritated that he takes rash chances.)

10. Yes (He never allows himself to get trapped. For example, if a car pulls in sharply after passing him, Keilen always draws back to provide adequate space.)

Here's advice from the men who know about fire — the men who see how people react, the mistakes they make, how they die.

524c

F, 524c

Three babies, left with young children, died in this room. Heavily barred windows prevented rescue.

Lifesavin Tip

EVERY two minutes in this country firemen speed to a burning house—sometimes to make rescues, other times to carry out the bodies —6,000 every year.

Could these victims be saved? Firemen are convinced they could if they followed these simple lifesaving rules.

▶ *Never leave children alone*

Although it may seem safe to step out for a few minutes while children are sleeping or playing, firemen know otherwise. Each year

Dashing for ambulance, firemen give oxygen to baby trapped in fire while mother was at store.

F1524c

Photos,
Chicago Fire Department

Canvas bag carried by firemen contains body burned too horribly for public view. Fire started in basement, took lives of three who had no way of escape after regular stairway was blocked by flames.

n Tips from Firefighters

1200 children are left alone to die, trapped by fire, often of their own making.

Here is one especially tragic case that Chicago firemen will not soon forget. When they arrived at a northside basement apartment, flames already blocked doorways. So they rushed to side windows, expecting an easy entrance. But to their horror the windows were heavily barred against burglars. "It was terrible," said one fireman. "We could see three children lying on the floor. But we couldn't get in to them and they couldn't get out."

Where was their mother when the fire began? At a nearby store. Left to care for the dead babies had been three young children who decided to have some fun with matches while mother was away. When the apartment caught fire, they fled.

The list of such incidents is endless. A 7-year-old girl burned to death after her cousin set a match to her dress. Mother was visiting a neighbor. Three children sleeping upstairs suffocated from smoke after their father on his way to work dropped a match in a wastebasket. The bodies of two little boys were found under their beds where they had hidden to escape from a blazing Christmas tree that ignited while mother sat chatting with in-laws two houses away.

Leaving a child alone in a house, even for a short time, is risky, say firemen. Fire may break out unexpectedly or children may start fires by playing with matches. When fire gets out of control, children are helplessly confused and often hide under beds and in closets, waiting for parents to rescue them.

▸ *Don't smoke in bed*

To firemen, smoking in bed is the worst folly of all—the easiest way to cremate yourself. Despite constant warnings, more people die from careless smoking than from any other cause of fire. And a recent survey shows that 70 per cent of all these victims fell asleep while smoking.

Everyone thinks he will wake up. "I'll feel the heat or smell the

smoke," is the classic reply to firemen's reminders. But these people don't realize one all-important fact: the real killer is smoke and not flames. Burning materials—such as cotton, silk, wool, rayon—give off toxic gases that can asphyxiate you long before fire ever touches your body. This is aptly illustrated by the recent death of a dean in Washington, D. C., who inhaled poisonous fumes from a smoldering armchair in his study. He apparently dozed off and dropped a cigarette.

If you're ever tempted to flout firemen's smoking advice, remember this episode told by former Assistant Fire Chief Bob Rogers of Seattle: One July, firemen were called to a hotel room where they found a man and his wife overcome by smoke. After administering oxygen, firemen lectured the couple on the hazards of smoking in bed, then went back to quarters. About a year later, firemen were again called to the same hotel, same room, where they revived the same couple, sent the woman to a hospital for burn treatment and lectured the man on smoking in bed. Eleven days later, firemen once again rushed to the hotel, same room and found the same couple —but this time the story was different. The woman was dead and the man died three days later. The cause: smoking in bed.

▸ *Get everyone out*

"There's a fire at 17 Blodget St. It's a big fire!" shouted a woman over the phone to the fire department in Manchester, N. H., last year. These were her last words. When firemen arrived they found her lying in an upstairs bedroom near the telephone and her 2-year-old daughter draped over the window sill where she had made a last-minute attempt to escape the roasting heat. The mother's moment of hesitation to call for help cost their lives, agreed firemen. Her husband fled to a window ledge where he was rescued by firemen.

Get everyone out—then call the fire department, is the fireman's maxim. Even a small fire can become deadly within minutes, especially to occupants of upper floors. Fire does not burn a path inch by inch, but spreads rapidly by sending superheated gases up stairways to kindle new fires simultaneously in many areas. One whiff of hot air can fell you instantly. And flames that multiply quickly will block your escape.

So found out a young man in Mt. Kisco, N. Y., who left his three children and wife while he dashed next door to phone in a fire alarm. "Just a small grease fire in the kitchen," he reported. But he was horribly mistaken. For when he next looked, his house was ablaze and his family trapped inside.

▸ *Don't enter a burning building*

Braving fire is dangerous enough for professionals who are trained in fire-fighting techniques. But mad rushes into burning buildings by amateurs to rescue humans or property are usually fool hardy and too often, tragically useless.

Consider this man in Flint, Mich., who dashed into a burning house after a friend suggested someone might be trapped inside. Firemen later dug the man's body out of debris in the basement where he had fallen when the floor collapsed. The house had been empty.

No less tragic was the fate of a Chicago man who fled from a smoking apartment building, but raced back to warn other residents. Firemen's search for bodies, turned up only one—that of the man who had gone back, slumped in a chair in his apartment. All other residents were rescued from ledges by firemen.

Once you're out of a fire, stay out, warn firemen. Chances are

Fi 524c

Chicago Tribune photo

Firemen's big problem is persuading people such as this woman not to jump but to wait for rescue.

Sleep with bedroom door closed

It is not unusual for firemen to discover the bodies of fire victims lying in bed without a burn on them. These persons never knew what happened, because they were asphyxiated quietly by fire's toxic gases. Most had gone to sleep with their bedroom doors open, thus depriving themselves of their most effective barrier against the lethal fumes.

Recent tests have proved that in a bedroom with the door open you have only two minutes to survive a fire. But in the same bedroom with the door closed you have from 5 to 11 minutes. The reason: the door holds back smoke and gas.

Top floors are especially dangerous because hot gases rise rapidly and flood upstairs bedrooms. Three-fourths of all fire victims die upstairs from fires that start downstairs.

In hotels, firemen advise you also to close transoms over doors before retiring. Here again, occupants of upper floors are in extreme danger from basement or first floor fires. After the LaSalle Hotel fire in Chicago, which started in a first-floor cocktail lounge, rooms with open transoms on the 17th floor were burned out. On the same floor rooms with transoms closed were untouched. The power of fire's poisonous fumes was startlingly demonstrated. All 61 victims, many on top floors, died not from burns, but from inhalation of smoke and carbon monoxide.

you can't escape twice. Wait for experienced firemen to perform the rescues. In panic, you are apt to act foolishly as did one man who bucked an inferno to retrieve his toothbrush.

▶ *Don't jump from windows*

One of firemen's gravest difficulties is keeping hysterical occupants from leaping out windows instead of waiting for rescue. During the historical Winecoff Hotel fire in Atlanta, panicky guests leaped from 12 story windows to certain death on pavements below. In California, recently, a woman jumped three stories although a fireman was on his way up a ladder to save her.

In New York, a father trapped on a fourth floor apartment jumped before firemen could arrange a net under him. "If he had only held on five seconds more, we would have had him," said a fire captain.

Here is firemen's advice: If exits are blocked, stay put. Try to keep smoke and flames out by barricading the door with wet rugs and mattresses. One man and his wife who did this were able to survive four hours in the Winecoff Hotel until firemen broke in and rescued them.

If breathing becomes difficult, sit near an open window; get out on a ledge if you must. But jump only as a last resort. If possible, throw out a mattress to soften your fall, then slide backwards on your stomach, hang briefly by your finger tips from the window sill and let go. Never plunge from a standing or sitting position. Best of all, wait for the fireman's ladder.

▶ *Plan your escape*

No other precaution is quite so important as planning a route of escape before fire strikes, according to firemen. They have seen too many people rendered completely helpless in the face of sudden fire.

Typical were a young doctor and his wife in Houston, Texas, who, awakened by the smell of smoke, made a frantic dash to rescue their three young daughters sleeping in an adjacent bedroom. But the hall was already filled with flames. And although the parents made several bold attempts to break through, they were driven back each time. Finally, they were forced to climb out on a porch roof, abandoning their children to death.

If everyone knows where to go in case of fire, he isn't so likely to panic and become trapped, agree firemen. Here's what fire chiefs tell you to do:

- Sit down with your family and plot a fire escape route and an alternate from each room, especially bedrooms. Don't count too much on stairways because they are the first to be flooded with smoke and heat. A porch roof, sturdy trellis, rope ladder or ladder stored on the roof can provide alternate exits.
- Teach everyone to make the bedroom door test. Never open a door that is warm to the touch; smoke or flames are sure to be waiting on the other side—and one blast can kill you. If a door is not heated, brace yourself against it and open slightly with your face turned away from the crack. If smoke or gas seeps through, close the door instantly and escape by the alternate route.
- Decide on a meeting point outside the house, so no one will be tempted to return for a person who is already safe.
- Most important, run through the routine, not once, but several times to be sure children know exactly what to do.●

Teenagers on a sniffing binge

Teenagers who deliberately go on a "jag" by sniffing model airplane glue may end up with a hangover of severe liver damage, say medical authorities. Alarmed over the new teenage "sniffing" fad, the National Clearinghouse for Poison Control Centers has warned teenagers as well as legitimate model airplane enthusiasts to avoid plastic cement's poisonous fumes.

The glue contains hydrocarbons such as benzene that produce exhilaration and even simulated alcohol intoxication. Also present is carbon tetrachloride, chloroform or ethylene dichloride, known as liver poisoners, but also dangerous to the central nervous system, heart, gastrointestinal tract and kidneys. Anyone who inhales enough fumes to produce a "jag" is in danger of being poisoned, according to doctors.

• • •

If you know these people—

A life-or-death search is on for 59 persons who recently bought travel trailers (the kind used by hunters and campers) manufactured by the Midway Co., of Texas. The trailers are equipped with a Kool-wall heater, model 542, which is unvented and not approved for use in trailers because lack of ventilation allows dangerous concentrations of carbon monoxide gas to accumulate.

One owner has already been found—dead in Maryland in his trailer with heater going at full capacity. U. S. Public Health Service has asked everyone to be on the alert for these hazardous trailers. USPHS also issued a stern warning to trailer occupants: Never sleep in a trailer with a heater going unless there is good ventilation and proper venting to carry away (carbon monoxide) fumes.

• • •

Dangerous diet for kids

Watch out that your toddler who loves to concoct mud pies doesn't also eat them, advises Dr. Sydney S. Gellis, chairman of the department of pediatrics at Boston University's school of medicine. Dirt, he says, is one of the most common foreign substances in a child's diet, but also one of the most dangerous. It may contain roundworm larvae left from dog and cat wastage that can cause visceral-larva migrans, a disease that permanently damages a child's liver.

Allowing little girls to chew on their braids is also hazardous, reported the doctor, because strands may form into hair balls in the stomach. The masses of tangled hair may cause serious trouble and must be removed by surgery.

• • •

New type of traffic on trial

The term "reckless driving" has taken on new meaning that could have $evere consequences for us all. In Chicago a woman sued a man for $100,000 damages, charging that he collided with her in the lobby of a bank and caused her to fall and fracture her hip. The woman's attorney said the man was walking too fast and didn't give sufficient warning of his approach. "The same laws that apply to auto traffic should apply to pedestrians," he added.

In Stephensville, Tex., a $50,000 damage suit was filed charging a 3-year-old with reckless operation of his tricycle after he allegedly drove full speed into a woman when her back was turned. Well, it's something new for insurance companies to think about.

• • •

A shock to watch for

A warning to do-it-yourself car mechanics: Remove your wrist watch and ring before delving into a car's innards. Otherwise you may get burned, according to *Consumer Bulletin* magazine.

A recent issue reported the case of a fellow who short circuited his car battery via the metal band of his wrist watch while he was working on his car. The current passed into the band causing it to become red hot enough to inflict a severe burn on the back of the man's wrist.

Plowing carelessly through woods or picking up stones can be a hiker's downfall if he startles a snake.

A rock climber who surprises a sunbathing rattlesnake gets what he's asking for—quick retaliation.

DON'T INVITE SNAKEBITE

Snakes don't like you either, so you're safe as long as you don't disturb them. If startled, they strike in self-defense.

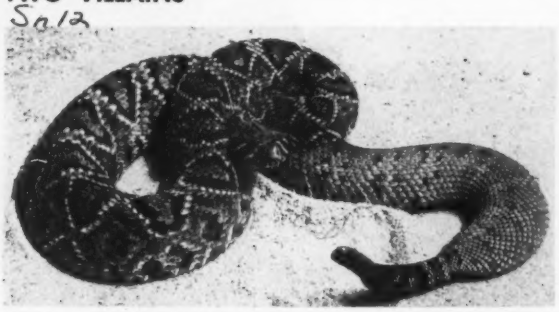
THE wily serpent that played that dreadful trick on Eve established once and for all the relationship between man and the snake. They just don't like each other.

Herpetologists say this mutual hatred is only a misunderstanding, characterized by unreasonable fear on both sides. Nevertheless, few men have been able to warm up to the charms of a snake and vice versa. Through the years one rule of coexistence has evolved: stay out of each other's way.

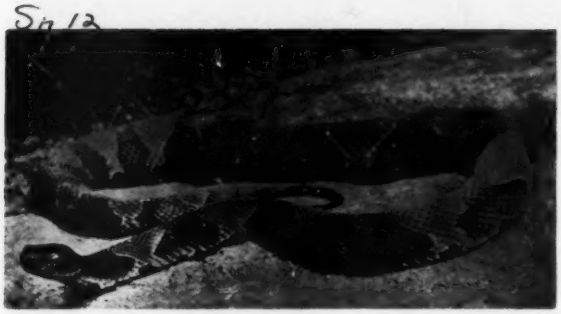
Each year an estimated 1500 Americans who follow a different policy wind up with two small punctures and a dose of deadly poison in their bodies. About 30 die and all endure many moments of horror, wondering if they will be among the ill-fated.

Despite their notorious reputation, snakes are not aggressive, and do not strike without cause. Authorities are hard put to find a single case in which a poisonous snake—even the dreaded mamba of Africa—attacked a man without provocation. So shy of man are snakes that they will always escape if possible rather than face up to an attack. Even the violent shaking

TWO VILLAINS



Enemy number one is rattlesnake family which causes most deaths. Shown here is eastern diamondback.



Copperhead delivers more bites than any other species, but its venom is weak and usually harmless.

of the rattlesnake's tail, which has turned many a man to jelly, is not a warning of attack as most persons think, but only a sign of severe fright, say authorities. However, a snake this scared will usually strike in self-defense as will any snake that is cornered, startled or inadvertently touched.

The strike and the venom

Although snakes usually coil before they spring, they can strike from any position. With two hypodermic-like fangs they penetrate the skin about a fourth of an inch, then inject venom, stored in salivary glands of the jaw. Immediately the victim suffers intense pain. Within five minutes the flesh around the bite swells and becomes discolored.

The venom is absorbed slowly through body tissue into the blood somewhat the same way ink soaks into a blotter. In rare cases the fang may hit a vein which carries the poison swiftly through the body. Death results when the poison paralyzes spinal nerves that control respiration or destroys a great number of blood cells or blood vessel linings.

Fortunately, 97 per cent of all bites are on legs, ankles, hands and arms, from which the venom takes hours to reach vital points of the body. A bite near an organ is extremely serious and must be counteracted immediately with antivenin.

The severity of a bite also depends on the size of the victim, size of snake, toxicity of venom and even how angry or afraid the snake is when it bites. Small children are most susceptible to death from snakebite because the venom's route through the system is short. One small child, attacked by a giant diamondback rattlesnake, was dead within an hour. Large snakes are more dangerous than small ones, because the larger the snake, the more venom it contains and expells.

The United States is plagued by four poisonous snakes—the rattlesnake, copperhead, cottonmouth or water moccasin and the coral snake. Fortunately, the coral snake with the most powerful venom, drop for drop, is small, relatively scarce and responsible for few bites. So tiny is the Arizona coral snake—never more than 21 inches long—that its feeble fangs are incapable of breaking human skin. On the other hand, the copperhead that delivers more bites than any other species, possesses a venom so weak it rarely causes death, even in an untreated child. The cottonmouth accounts for few bites, but is known to be vicious and apt to strike at the least disturbance.

The real villain is the rattlesnake family with its numerous species, including the massasauga, sidewinder, western diamondback and timber rattler. Together these reptiles inflict 75 per cent of all bites and cause the greatest number of deaths. The number one rogue in this gallery is the western diamondback rattler, a husky fellow sometimes 7 feet long, with a large reserve of venom, long sharp fangs and a powerful strike. This snake is clearly the most dangerous to human life of all species in the country, said James A. Oliver, curator of reptiles at the New York Zoo.

Learn the dangers

Now, how do you keep a safe distance between yourself and the poisonous quartet?

Know where they live. All snakes prefer homelands uninhabited by their enemy, homo sapiens. The fewer people, the more snakes. Therefore you're more likely to encounter snakes in undeveloped tracts of land, rural areas and forest preserves where wildlife is protected. Even city dwellers don't have to go far to find poisonous snakes. Copperheads dwell in the Palisades of New Jersey, directly across from New York City, and massasaugas, within 30 miles of the Chicago loop.

Rattlesnakes, by far the most populous, can be found in all states except Connecticut. The copper-

head lives in about half the states, all over the eastern seaboard from Massachusetts to Florida and in the Midwest and South, but not in the West. The coral snake ranges from North Carolina south to Florida and west to Texas. The cottonmouth prefers only wet swampy areas, mostly in the south from Virginia down to Florida and the eastern Gulf states. A few, however, slip up into the Mississippi valley as far north as Illinois.

Watch where you're going. Walk on high ground so you'll have a good view of surrounding areas. Never step blindly over a log or into high grass where snakes might be lying. If you're walking or climbing around high ledges, keep a sharp lookout above; these are favorite sunning places for snakes. Never pick up objects unless you have good visibility. And never poke your hands in crevices or rabbit holes; these are familiar hideaways for snakes. If you're rowing a boat in water moccasin country, don't go near submerged logs or under trees from which snakes may dangle. And one all-important precaution—if you know snakes are around—wear boots.

Should you encounter a snake suddenly or hear the ominous rattle, don't panic and run, but remain quiet until you can spot the snake. Then move slowly away. As long as you keep 5 feet from a poisonous snake you are safe. For no snake can strike more than two-thirds of its length, and seldom more than one-half to one-third.

Sudden movement may cause the snake to strike immediately; or worse, in your haste to depart, you may dash toward the snake instead of away. A snake won't pursue you and if it did, couldn't catch you. Although snakes are reputed to be the fastest of nature's creatures, they are actually slow. High speed photography by herpetologist Walker Van Riper showed that our fastest snake, the sidewinder, can cover only 4.4 feet a second whereas the average man walks at 5.8 feet a second. Because of their small size and waving locomotion snakes appear to travel much faster than they do.

Don't pick up "dead" snakes. The snake may be very much alive and capable of biting. Or although dead, a snake often can still deliver a lethal dose by reflex action. Even a head, severed from a snake's body, once gave a fatal bite to someone who picked it up.

As long as glands contain venom and fangs are intact, the snake is not harmless. There's only one way to get along with snakes, dead or alive: *leave them alone.*●

If someone is bitten--

- *Make the victim lie down and keep quiet. Unnecessary movement speeds circulation, spreading venom more rapidly.*

- *Tie a belt, necktie or other band around the limb, about 2 inches above the bite—but not too tightly. Veins should stand out and you should be able to detect a faint pulse on flesh below bite. Anything tighter than this is dangerous. As swelling progresses up limb, move band ahead of bite 3 inches at a time.*

- *With a knife or razor blade, sterilized by a match flame, make incisions through each fang mark about a quarter inch long and an eighth to a quarter inch deep. Incisions should run lengthwise on the limb, not crosswise, because of danger of severing blood vessels, tendons and nerves.*

- *Suck out blood either with suction cup from snakebite kit or by mouth. Continue doing so for 15 minutes.*

- *If swelling is severe and moving rapidly, additional incisions farther up the limb may be necessary. Place them about an inch apart in a ring around the limb. Space the rings from 4 to 6 inches apart, with constricting band always ahead of incisions. Apply suction to these, but return to original bite incisions every 15 minutes.*

- *Give victim water, tea or coffee but not alcohol. Keep him warm.*

- *As soon as possible get patient under the care of a physician who can administer antivenin. Carry the victim or make him walk very slowly to retard circulation. Do not discontinue first aid until a doctor is obtained.*

A nightmarish problem you may one day face: what would you do

If your child ate

BY THE TIME Nancy reached her, Debbie was screaming and had turned blue. Her mouth inside and out was burned raw. White crystals from the can of drain cleaner were sprinkled on the floor and down the front of her blouse. A few clung to her tiny fist that dug at her mouth in a bewildered attempt to kill the pain.

In panic, Nancy knew she should act quickly—speed was important she had read somewhere. So she did the first thing that occurred to her; she jammed her finger down Debbie's throat and the little girl gagged, bringing up some of the poison.

Nancy's next thought was to call the family doctor; he had an ambulance dispatched immediately. Within 20 minutes doctors in the hospital's emergency room were pumping Debbie's stomach. But the tissue of her stomach and esophagus had been severely eaten by lye in the cleaner, and her chances of living, reported Nancy's doctor, were not more than 50-50. What he didn't tell Nancy was that the odds might have been much better if she had handled the emergency correctly. Forcing Debbie to vomit had wrought extreme damage. The lye, drawn up from the stomach, had a second chance to contact the esophagus wall and perhaps even rupture it. But Nancy never realized her tragic mistake, for after Debbie died the doctor saw no reason to add self-recrimination to a parent's grief.

Would you have known what to do if Debbie had been your child? Or would you, like Nancy, have fumbled in ignorance while your child's life drifted away?

Antidotes that work beautifully in chemistry lab are not the answer in a crisis. Water may do as well.

late POISON?

Ask yourself the hard question: Just what would I do if my child swallowed poison?

Ten women who were asked that question gave these answers: four would call the doctor immediately; three would force the child to vomit; two would rush him to a hospital, and one would "whip up the universal antidote."

Dilute *first*

All the women were wrong, according to a committee on accidental poisoning for the American Academy of Pediatrics. After intensive study of emergency treatment for poison, these experts recently concluded that a mother's first concern should be to dilute the poison in a child's stomach by making him drink water (or any other nonpoisonous liquid). The usual recommended dose is two cups for children up to 5 years old and a quart for those over that age. The liquid weakens the strength of the poison solution, slowing down its deadly action.

When is vomiting best?

Making a child vomit should be step number two —*sometimes*, said the committee. And that qualification *sometimes* is important.

"Few persons realize that vomiting in some cases can do more harm than good," said pediatrician Robert Frazier. "If the poison is a corrosive, such as lye, ammonia, household bleach or acid, vomiting only increases tissue damage." Corrosive poisons eat tissue and leave tell-tale burns in the child's mouth. Follow this rule, advises Dr. Frazier: "If burns are apparent in a child's mouth do not force him to vomit.

"Nor should a child be made to vomit if he has swallowed petroleum products, such as kerosene, gasoline, furniture polish, lighter fluid, cleaning fluids,

Ho 751 4

Unfortunately, a mother's first instinct is to make a child vomit. Sometimes this can be dangerous.

Ho 751 4

A hurried call to get a doctor's advice is essential. But when? Before or after you administer first aid?

FOUR EASY STEPS TO REMEMBER

- Dilute the poison by making the child drink water.
- Make him vomit unless he has burns around the mouth, or has swallowed petroleum products or is unconscious or in convulsions.
- Call a physician.
- Keep the child warm; keep his air passage open; give artificial respiration, if necessary.

From the subcommittee on accidental poisoning, Academy of Pediatrics

benzine and naphtha," added Dr. Frazier. "In this case the vomitus may enter the lungs and cause broncho-pneumonia.

"And certainly vomiting is not recommended if the victim is unconscious or in convulsions."

In all other instances of poisoning, pediatricians recommend making the child vomit by tickling his throat with your finger or by giving him an emetic such as warm soapy water.

Next, call the doctor, advises the committee of pediatricians. But why not call the doctor first? Obviously, the ideal procedure is for one person to notify a physician while another administers first aid. But if you are alone, prompt emergency treatment should come first; those first crucial minutes could easily determine the child's fate. Of course, in no instance should you waste precious time studying labels and searching for antidotes. First aid should take only a few minutes, for it is also essential to get the victim under expert medical care as soon as possible.

Pediatricians also advise you to treat the child for shock by keeping him warm. And be sure to keep his air passage open; give artificial respiration if necessary.

How good are antidotes?

Antidotes are usually not worth fooling around with, said Dr. Frazier—–especially the "universal antidote," which is a mixture of charcoal, milk of magnesia and tea. "We don't recommend the universal antidote because it leads people into false confidence," remarked Dr. Frazier, "and it isn't very effective anyway."

Often much time elapses before treatment because parents don't suspect a child has swallowed poison, although he begins to act "funny." With 250,000 poisonous household products on the market every mother must be alert to the poisoning hazard, especially in children up to 5 years old. Be suspicious if a child exhibits any of the following symptoms: sudden pain, unusual flushing or pallor, agitation, restlessness, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, muscle twitchings, convulsions, signs of fear or panic and burns around the mouth or on the skin.

At any of these signs, start first aid and call the doctor. One woman merely put her child to bed with a "cold" after he began sweating, became nauseated and lethargic. When after several hours his breathing became difficult, she rushed him to a hospital. He died the next day. An overdose of aspirin, the doctor said.●

Ways to Prevent Poisonings

Nearly all accidental poisonings could be prevented if the toxic materials were stored and handled properly, according to the National Clearing House for Poison Control Centers. Here are precautions to take:

• Lock your medicine cabinet. Drugs, including the largest offender aspirin, account for one-third of all fatal poisonings in children under five. It is not enough to put medicines on high shelves, for children in the climbing stage will go to amazing heights in search for forbidden items.

• Don't keep household chemicals under the kitchen sink. The one-year-old who crawls under the sink to ingest bleaches and lyes, accounts for 37 per cent of poisoning cases, according to one study. Hazardous household products belong on high shelves, preferably in a locked compartment, inaccessible to the crawler.

• Never transfer a poisonous substance, such as turpentine into a common container such as a cola or milk bottle, drinking glass or pitcher. A child could easily mistake the poison for food or drink.

• Never put poisons in cupboards used for food storage.

• Make a regular check around the house to be sure poisonous items are not within a child's reach. Danger areas are kitchen, bedroom and bathroom.

LACQUER SPRAYS:

new hazard in the workshop

DO-IT-YOURSELFERS applying lacquers by spray cans are in greater danger of being poisoned than they realize. So says Dr. Kempton G. Wing, physiologist, who, despite extreme caution, was slightly poisoned four times one month after using lacquer from pressurized cans.

Spraying lacquer is potentially more dangerous than putting it on the old-fashioned way by brush, believes Dr. Wing. A person inhales not only clouds of unevaporated droplets, but also fumes in high concentration after droplets evaporate in the air. Droplets can also accumulate on a person's body and be absorbed.

Lacquers and lacquer-thinners contain chemicals, such as carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, butyl alcohol and lead acetate that can be toxic if enough enters the body.

Dr. Wing does not feel directions on spray cans that read "spray out of doors in well-ventilated area" are explicit enough. In fact, he has found it is almost as easy to be poisoned while spraying outdoors as indoors. "And who has ever seen a label on a can admonishing a person not to drink alcohol within a few hours after being exposed to carbon tetrachloride?" he asks. "The two close together can be lethal."

Here are precautions

Anyone using lacquer from pressurized cans should take directions seriously, but also follow these extra precautions, said Dr. Wing:

1. Never underestimate the need for good, reliable ventilation. Be sure outdoor breezes carry fumes away from you, not toward you. Indoors, use a fan that directs the air away from you and place the fan motor above you with its air stream directed downward toward your head. In this position the fan can not receive and kick back vapors.

2. Keep your face and body as far as possible from the spray jet and surface being lacquered. If the lacquer scatters as it issues from the can, clean the nozzle. Don't let the mist rebound from the surface into your face.

3. Remove all lacquer-soiled clothing and lacquer from the skin immediately after spraying.

4. Don't smoke while spraying because of the possibilities of fire, explosion and faster vaporization caused by high temperatures.

5. At the first sign of poisoning —giddiness, incoordination, nausea, headache, blurred vision or irritation of skin—stop work, clean your body and don fresh clothing. If symptoms are severe or persist, call a physician. And don't consume alcohol within several hours before or after spraying. Alcohol can aggravate the effects of poisoning, but can also produce effects that will be confused with the poisoning.

"If you are extra careful, you should be able to use sprays without trouble," concluded Dr. Wing.●

Spring Check-Up For Ladders

La 12

Here's a man who didn't give his ladder a thorough check-up before he tried his first spring climb.

HAVE you taken a close look at your ladders lately? Those spring jobs of roof patching, paint-up and TV antenna adjustment are due. So it's time for a careful ladder check if you want to work safely. Here are some things to avoid, some signs to look for:

- How were your ladders stored last winter? Are they now permanently warped because you didn't put them in a dry place? Do they sag because they were hung horizontally on only two instead of three or more supports? Bear this in mind when you put your ladders away next winter.

- Don't give your ladder the strength test! If you place a ladder over a couple of saw-horses (or place the feet of it too far out from the wall against which you're working) and walk back and forth over it to see if it's strong, you may produce compression failures in its side rails. These failures show up in the form of thin lines across the grain of the wood and are often difficult to detect. So avoid putting undue horizontal stresses on your

La 12 bs

This ladder is dying of over-repair. It's time for a new ladder if yours has reached this state.

La 12

Don't strength-test your ladder as this fellow does. Extreme horizontal stresses create dangerous compression failures in the side rails. Then, when you least expect it, the rails may break.

ladder or you may be in for a sudden and unforeseen fall.

- Never splice split or broken side rails; discard the ladder or replace the entire side rail.
- Never make improvised repairs to your ladder; if rungs or braces are split or cracked, get a new ladder or have a qualified repairman do the job.
- Examine metal fittings and ropes; replace the worn ones.
- Don't paint any ladder to preserve its life; you may lose your own if you can't detect a split, check or other failure beneath the paint. Use only clear shellac, spar varnish or linseed oil to preserve your ladder.

METAL LADDER SPOT-CHECK

- Check rivets periodically for undue play and possible shearing. A loose rivet can be replaced with a bolt, nut and lock washer.
- Check treads for slipperiness. Various abrasive materials can be put on them to provide the needed friction.
- Mark the ladder clearly with the words: *Caution — Do Not Use Around Electrical Wires and Equipment.*
- Remember: any metal ladder that has been deformed by heat, overload or injury should be discarded. Repair of such a ladder will always leave a question as to whether it has been strained beyond its elastic limit.●

La 12

Linseed oil, clear shellac or varnish protects your ladder but does not hide defects as paint can.

La 12

These ladders have no sag in them because they've been stored properly over three or more supports.

Readers Talk Back

Seat belts

We thought you might be interested in knowing that your article, "Why Seat Belts Are a Must" (Winter, 1960) was a real boon to our safety program.

As you may know, General Mills has encouraged the use of seat belts for several years by authorizing their installation on all company vehicles whose drivers request them. While this program has resulted in the use of hundreds of belts by our personnel, it has not made for complete coverage.

Then came your article on seat belts. The article so impressed one of the officers of our company that it was immediately decided that from now on *all* General Mills vehicles would be equipped with belts.

K. S. Martyn
Safety Director
General Mills, Inc.

I really appreciated the seat belt article. This kind of evidence cannot be ignored. Safety Belts Save Lives!

Gerald E. Montgomery
Executive Director
Greater Detroit Safety Council

Seat belt article was excellent and well worth additional mileage. May we reprint it?

E. J. Turton
Westinghouse Electric Corp.

Away with cigarette butts

Mrs. FitzGerald, in your last issue, suggests the use of covered canisters to solve the problem of cigarette butt disposal. Her suggestion is good—but not good enough. The only really safe method is to empty ash trays into the toilet and to flush them away.

George Ashley
Hertz Corporation
New York, N. Y.

Did somebody slip up?

Please take a look at the article "Quick, Easy Ways to Fallproof Your Home" on page 28 of your Winter Home Safety Review. What's that man doing using the two top steps on the stepladder? Who goofed?

I have always been under the belief that it was an *unsafe practice* to use either the second last or top step of any stepladder as a step.

J. M. Hirschinger
Quincy Area Safety Council, Inc.
Quincy, Ill.

You're right. Several readers caught this faux pas. NSC's Accident Prevention Manual clearly warns against using the top steps of a ladder.—Editor.

Beware indoor barbecues

Last year friends of ours were taken to the hospital overcome by carbon monoxide—source, charcoal grill in the house. Because of a power failure, the furnace was off and although they had steaks on the grill on the patio, they opened the windows and brought the grill indoors as the steaks were finishing up. Then, they took the grill out immediately and closed the windows. The furnace came on and forced carbon monoxide down from the ceiling.

I have heard Arthur Godfrey on radio advertising to Mary Martin a disposable charcoal grill which she might use in a motel! Stores are featuring low cost "Hibachi" grills which might be more suitable in Japanese homes than they are here. Now, Green Giant is featuring one for $2.00 and can labels.

I have not heard of other accidents such as the one I described but our doctor says charcoal gives off almost pure carbon monoxide and if this is true, one wonders what steps should be taken. People and companies producing these items surely do not know that there is a potential hazard.

Mrs. Gail Halferty
Health Education Consultant, State of Ohio Department of Health.

Spokesmen for both the National Safety Council and U. S. Public Health Service agree carbon monoxide from charcoal grills used inside could be hazardous.—Editor.

On the way up

Congratulations! News of the popularity of *Home Safety Review* is exciting!

ELIZABETH KASEY
Safety Consultant
Metropolitan Life
Insurance Co.

Our circulation has nearly doubled since the last issue and now stands at around 64,000.

Home fires

"Is your house built to burn?" (winter 1960) was an excellent, thought-provoking article. I didn't know such fire-retardant items existed, nor did I realize their importance. But from now on I'll certainly use them in any building or remodeling I do.

MRS. WAYNE HERRING
Metropolis, Ill.

While there are many statements in the article "Is your house built to burn?", with which we are in agreement, there are others that we think are questionable . . . For example, the recommendation of the chemical sprinkler. If you will study the approval of this type of extinguishing unit as listed by Underwriters' Laboratories, you will find that they do not recommend it in places where people sleep, for instance, and I certainly do not think, as Mr. Kearney suggests in his article, that it would be appropriate to put one of these over a kitchen range.

PERCY BUGBEE
General Manager
National Fire Protection
Association

Investigation reveals that this type of chemical sprinkler (recommended for electrical fires only) contains a toxic extinguishing agent, sometimes carbon tetrachloride. We agree that such a sprinkler should not be installed in bedrooms, kitchens or other living quarters. We advise home owners to consult local fire authorities before installing any kind of fire extinguishing equipment.—Editor.

HOME FIRE ALARM MANUFACTURERS

After reading "Is your house built to burn?" (winter, 1960) dozens of readers wrote us asking for the names of manufacturers of home fire alarms. Below is a list of those bearing the Underwriters' Laboratories seal:

CONTROL UNITS, SYSTEM

Acme Corporation—Fire Protection, San Francisco 5, Calif.

Acme Fire Alarm Co., Inc., New York 11, N. Y.

Alarm Products, Inc., Atlanta 19, Ga.

American Alarms, Inc., Beverly Hills, Calif.

American Fire Alarm Co., Inc., Portland 2, Oregon

Atmo Automatic Fire Alarm Systems, Kidde Ultrasonic & Detection Alarms, Inc., Allwood, N. J.

Audiographic, Inc., Whitestone 57, N. Y.

Auth Electric Co., Inc., Long Island 1, N. Y.

Autocall Co., Shelby, Ohio

Automatic Fire Alarm Co., New York 36, N. Y.

Automatic Sprinkler Corporation of America, Youngstown, Ohio

Central Station Signals, Inc., New York 10, N. Y.

Consolidated Industries, Inc., Boston 14, Mass.

Control Companies of American District Telegraph Co., New York 13, N. Y.

Couch Co., Inc., North Quincy 71, Mass.

Derby Devices, Inc., North Haven, Conn.

Dictograph Products, Inc., Jamaica 35, N. Y.

Edwards Co., Inc., Norwalk, Conn.

Ellenco, Inc., Washington 7, D. C.

Fire Control Co., Inc., Wilmington 1, Del.

Fire-Lite Alarms, Inc., New Haven, Conn.

Fyrmatic Co., Elmhurst, Ill.

Gainwell Co., Newton Upper Falls 64, Mass.

Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co., Minneapolis 8, Minn.

National Time & Signal Corp., Detroit 37, Mich.

New Jersey Fire Alarm Co., Newark 2, N. J.

Notifier Corp., Lincoln 4, Neb.

Pacific Fire Extinguisher Co., San Francisco 3, Calif.

Potter Electric Signal Mfg. Co., St. Louis 3, Mo.

Protectowire Co., Hanover, Mass.

Simplex Time Recorder Co., Gardner, Mass.

Smith & Son, Washington 9, D. C.

Sperti Faraday, Inc., Adrian, Mich.

Spurling Fire Alarm Co., Athens, Tenn.

Standard Electric Time Co., Springfield, Mass.

Wheelock Signals, Inc., Long Branch, N. J.

FIRE ALARM DEVICES, SINGLE STATION

Evergard Fire Alarm Co., Philadelphia 22, Pa.

Falcon Alarm Co., Inc., Summit, N. J.

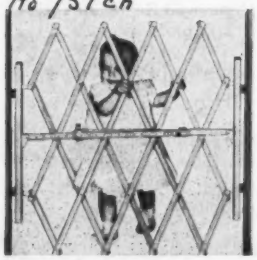
Standard Alarm & Signal Co., Madison, N. J.

Vanguard Interstate Corp., Anaheim, Calif.

HOME SAFETY PRODUCTS

Publication of product announcements in this section should not be construed as endorsement or approval by the National Safety Council.

Ho 751ch



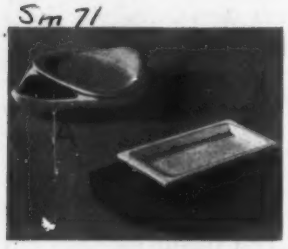
Fence them in

This portable gate is designed to keep your fast and footloose toddler in the same room and under your protective eye. According to the manufacturer, Porta-Gate is easily installed in doorways, between rooms or near stairs without using tools or nails that mar woodwork.

Made of kiln-dried hard wood with smoothly rounded corners and a smooth varnish finish, the gate adjusts to fit any size door from 26 to 42 inches. Retail price $3.95 ppd.

Harvest House, 1200 Niagara R611, Buffalo 13, New York.

Sm 71



Safety ashtray

These ceramic ashtrays contain a reservoir of fluid that snuffs out cigar and cigaret embers. According to the manufacturer, the fluid is non-toxic, non-flammable and odorless. One bottle of fluid will last for approximately six months, the manufacturer claims. Also, the sponge is soft enough to extinguish without breaking off the charred end of the cigaret, thus depositing the ashes on the sponge.

The ashtray and one bottle of fluid retails for $4.98, ppd.

The Cushman Company, P.O. Box 697, Reseda, Calif.

S, 23

Friendly persuader

This lawn marker has permanently raised white letters that shine at night, according to the manufacturer. "Children at play," "Beware of dog," or any other warning can be printed on the baked, black enamel scroll to help insure the safety of your family and passersby.

A rustproof, wrought aluminum frame supports the scroll that holds two lines and as many as 17 letters per line.

The warning sign, which stands 24" high, is useful for both driveway and play area. Retail price, $6.45 postage paid.

Spear Engineering Co., 101-S Spear Bldg., Colorado Springs, Colo.

EL 255W

To lock up tools

When locked, this plug prevents junior or the neighbors' kids from using your electric drill, soldering iron, sander or any other electric tool without your knowledge.

Operated by key, the plug locks with a nylon safety bar projecting between the two prongs, thus preventing them from entering a socket.

Yale and Towne, Chrysler Building, New York 17, New York.